

Remarks

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement which divides the currently pending claims into the following groups:

I, claims 1-30, drawn to a method for enumerating microbial colonies in a sample;

II, claims 31-60 and 63, drawn to a method for analyzing microbes, their growth, and their viability in a sample;

III, claim 61, drawn to a first method for evaluating antimicrobial agents;

IV, claim 62, drawn to a second first method for evaluating antimicrobial agents.

In order to fully respond to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the following, Group I, claims 1-30, and for the species election, (a), bacteria ; (d) phagocyte and (g), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

No fee has been calculated to be due in regard to responding to the Restriction Requirement. However, if any fee is due for entry of these papers, please charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 13-2755, as a large entity. Please credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if clarification is required on any aspect of this response, or if any of the claims are considered to require further amendment to be placed in condition for examination and allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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